

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KHARTO 02008 161153Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W
-----161238Z 090930 /45
P 161027Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4637

UNCLAS KHARTOUM 2008

EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR BERGUS FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AMGT, EAID, SU
SUBJECT: US AID PROGRAM IN SUDAN

REF: STATE 137979

1. THERE ARE SOME AID POLICY QUESTIONS ON WHICH I WISH TO HAVE YOUR GUIDANCE. REFTEL IS AN EYES ONLY MESSAGE TO ME FROM HAVEN NORTH OF AID/AA/AFR AND SIMMONS AID/SER/PM PROPOSING THAT GORDON PIERSON BE ASSIGNED HERE AS AID REPRESENTATIVE. REFTEL CONTAINS BIO INFO ON PIERSON. MY CONCURRENCE HAS BEEN REQUESTED, AND APPARENTLY AID HOPES TO HAVE PIERSON HERE BY MID-AUGUST IF POSSIBLE. MEANWHILE, ON THE BASIS OF EXISTING INSTRUCTIONS AND OUR UNDERSTANDING OF PLANNED STAFFING CHANGES, WE ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING HOUSING FOR NEW AID STAFF.

2. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT YOU DO NOT RPT NOT WANT ANY ACTION TAKEN ON AID STAFFING HERE UNTIL AFTER YOU HAVE ARRIVED AND HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW OUR REQUIREMENTS FIRSTHAND. SINCE THIS INFO HAS REACHED ME SECOND OR THIRD HAND, I AM NOT CERTAIN I HAVE A FULL OR COMPLETELY ACCURATE STORY, BUT ON BASIS OF WHAT I HAVE BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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TOLD I FEEL I SHOULD HAVE SOME GUIDANCE FROM YOU ASAP BEFORE PROCEEDING.

3. BELIEVE YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH DEVELOPMENTS LEADING TO ORIGINAL DECISION TO EXPAND STAFF. WHILE AMBASSADOR BREWER AND I WERE SOMEWHAT EXASPERATED BY AID PROCEDURES WE HAD REACHED A CONSENSUS

REGARDING AT LEAST INITIAL EXPANSION OF THE AID OFFICE
HERE. REALIZE YOU WILL WANT TO ASSURE THAT AID
PROGRAM HERE AND AID STAFFING MEET YOUR VIEWS OF WHAT
IS NEEDED. FROM MY OWN VANTAGE POINT, BELIEVE WE
SHOULD MOVE QUICKLY TO BRING IN A MANAGEMENT OFFICER
(I.E., GSO-TYPE) WHOSE SERVICES URGENTLY NEEDED TO
HELP MANAGE AID ACTIVITIES HERE. ALSO BELIEVE WOULD
BE WELL TO HAVE SENIOR AID REP HERE RELATIVELY
SOON. IN SHORT, I HOPE WE COULD MOVE FORWARD NOW
TO OBTAIN AID REPRESENTATIVE AND MANAGEMENT OFFICER,
SO THAT SMOOTH EVOLUTION CAN BE ASSURED. ONE MAN
AAO CANNOT HANDLE CURRENT/FUTURE REQUIREMENTS ALONE,
AND IF PROGRAM IS TO EVOLVE SMOOTHLY BELIEVE TWO
OFFICERS NOTED SHOULD BE ASSIGNED HERE ASAP.
GIVEN TIGHTNESS OF HOUSING MARKET HERE WOULD ALSO
BE HELPFUL IF YOU COULD GIVE US GREEN LIGHT TO PROCEED
WITH HOUSING SEARCH AS WE PRESENTLY AUTHORIZED TO DO.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IN LIGHT ABOVE COULD YOU
INDICATE WHETHER YOU HAVE ANY OBJECTION (A) TO MY
CONCURRING TO PIERSON NOMINATION AS AID REP/SUDAN
AND (B) TO EMBASSY CONTINUING LOOK FOR HOUSING FOR
TWO AID OFFICERS.
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